

Message Text

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NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR.TWINAM

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA
USCINCEUR
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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 23

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPT EMBER 23, 1977.
FYI ONLY, THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS TOM
RESTON.

Q. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO BARBARA
WALTERS' INTERVIEW WITH ARAFAT IN WHICH ARAFAT SAYS THAT
HE WOULD ACCEPT EITHER A REWRITTEN UN RESOLUTION 242, OR
242 INCORPORATED IN ANOTHER RESOLUTION THAT AFFIRMED
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS?
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A. WELL, WITH REGARD TO A CHANGED 242, I TOOK THAT QUES-
TION YESTERDAY, AND I HAVE THE ANSWER HERE. "IN OUR VIEW,
RESOLUTION 242, ALONG WITH 338, PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK
WITHIN WHICH SUBSEQUENT PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT. IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL THE
DIRECTLY CONCERNED STATES IN THE AREA. ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE
RESOLUTION 242 COULD BEGIN TO UNRAVEL THE ONLY AGREED UPON
FRAMEWORK WHICH EXISTS AND WOULD NOT SERVE THE CAUSE OF
PEACE. WE, THEREFORE, WOULD OPPOSE ANY SUCH RESOLUTION.

IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, WE RECALL THE PRESIDENT'S RE-
MARKS IN PLAINS, ON AUGUST 8TH, WHEN HE SAID, "IF THE
PALESTINIANS SHOULD SAY, QUOTE WE RECOGNIZE UN RESOLUTION
242 IN ITS ENTIRETY, WE THINK THE PALESTINIANS HAVE ADDI-
TIONAL STATUS OTHER THAN JUST REFUGEES, THAT WOULD SUIT
US OK. UNQUOTE.

Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE, THEN, TOM, WITH THE PALES-
TINIANS SAYING THAT THAT SUITS US AND THE UNITED NATIONS
SAYING IT? I MEAN, IF IT IS ALL RIGHT WITH US FOR THE
PALESTINIANS TO SAY WE ACCEPT 242, BUT WE HAVE ADDITIONAL

RIGHTS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN 242, WHY IS THE UNITED STATES OPPOSING AN EFFORT THAT WOULD INCORPORATE THE SAME LANGUAGE THAT IS IN 242 IN ANOTHER RESOLUTION THAT ALSO SIMILARLY AFFIRMED PALESTINIAN RIGHTS?

A. I'M SORRY, I CAN'T REALLY GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q. I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. YOU ANSWERED A QUESTION WHICH WAS NOT ASKED. THE QUESTION WHICH WAS ASKED IS: WOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT THE INCORPORATION OF 242 IN-TACT WITHOUT ANY CHANGES IN ITS WORDING, TOGETHER WITH A PHRASE FURTHER DEFINING THE STATUS OF THE PALESTINIANS? WOULD THE UNITED STATES OPPOSE SUCH A RESOLUTION WHILE MAINTAINING 242 AS WELL? FOR INSTANCE, 338 INCORPORATES UNCLASSIFIED

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242. NOW, THE QUESTION WAS: WOULD THE UNITED STATES OPPOSE A THIRD RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD DEAL WITH THIS PALESTINIAN PROBLEM?

A. I WILL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. DO YOU SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT AS A WAY TO END THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. JUST A MINUTE HERE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN JULY BETWEEN THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THE PLO. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A PARTY TO IT, AND FOR THE DETAILS OF THAT AGREEMENT, YOU SHOULD ASK THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

OUR GENERAL POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND REMAINS THAT WE WISH TO SEE AN END TO THE TRAGIC CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING IN SOUTH LEBANON AND THE RESTORATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE CENTRAL LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THERE. WE WELCOME ALL EFFORTS TO THAT END. THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT IS ONE SUCH EFFORT TO THAT END, AND AS SUCH IS WELCOME.

Q. ON SOUTHERN LEBANON, DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON WHETHER ISRAELI TROOPS ARE IN FACT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, OR HAVE THEY WITHDRAWN? OR IS IT STILL COMPLICATED?

A. IT IS, INDEED. I AM AFRAID IT IS STILL COMPLICATED. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID. THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IS HIGHLY COMPLICATED. WE REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE SITUATION CAN BE STABILIZED AND PEACE BE BROUGHT TO THE AREA. LET ME TRY TO CLEAR UP A LITTLE UNCLASSIFIED

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BIT OF CONFUSION OVER SOME WORDING HERE. WE HAVE CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. IN FACT THAT IS WHAT I AM DOING HERE NOW. BUT WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENTS AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR MESSAGE IS GETTING THROUGH.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SIGN OF ANY RESPONSE OF RESTRAINT? YOU SAY THE SITUATION REMAINS HIGHLY COMPLICATED DESPITE PRIOR APPEALS FOR RESTRAINT. HAS ANYBODY RESPONDED OR HAS ANYBODY REJECTED THE APPEALS?

A. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN OUR DIPLOMACY IS IN A DELICATE PHASE AND ANYTHING WE MIGHT SAY COULD UPSET WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH. WE HAVE TOLD YOU GENERALLY WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, THAT IS, TO STABILIZE THE AREA, SO THAT IS WHY WE ARE BEING RATHER CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT WE SAY IN PUBLIC HERE.

Q. I I DON'T MEAN TO ASK UNPATRIOTIC QUESTIONS, BUT IS WISH YOU WOULD TAKE AGAIN THE QUESTION, DOES THE DEPARTMENT KNOW WHETHER ISRAELI TROOPS, OR ANY KIND OF FORCES, ARE NORTH OF THE BORDER IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. I UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION PERFECTLY UNTIL YOU TOLD ME I SHOULD BE CONFUSED. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THAT?

A. WELL, I GOT A SERIES OF QUESTIONS, I THINK TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO, WHEN I CALLED ON ALL THE PARTIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. AND THEN EVERYBODY STARTED RINGING THE CHANGES ON WHETHER THAT MEANT THAT WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO DIRECTLY. WE ARE NOT DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT ANDREW YOUNG'S STATEMENT RECOMMENDING

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THE PLO FOR GENEVA IS AN EXAMPLE OF RESTRAINT, OR ARE YOU STILL STUDYING THE CONTEXT AFTER FOUR OR FIVE DAYS

NOW?

A. I'M SORRY, LET'S TRY TO DEAL WITH THAT ONE IN THIS WAY. THE POSITION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD

TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE REPRESENTED AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE IS CLEAR. THAT IS THE POSITION OF THIS GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SUPPORTS THAT POSITION.

I HAVE NOT SEEN THE TEXT OR THE CONTEXT OF WHAT HE SAID TO THAT NEWSDAY REPORTER. HE HAS TOLD US THAT WHAT HE WAS MEANING TO CONVEY WAS HIS SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHED POSITION OF THIS GOVERNMENT. NOW, I AM AFRAID I CAN'T ELUCIDATE FURTHER.

Q. THAT IS WONDERFUL. YOU SAID THAT HE SAID WHAT HE WAS MEANING TO SAY. THAT IS MORE THAN YOU SAID YESTERDAY. I AM VERY GRATEFUL THAT YOU TRACKED HIM DOWN.

A. FURTHERMORE, APPARENTLY WE DO NOT HAVE A TAPE RECORDING OF THAT INTERVIEW. IF YOU WISH FURTHER ELUCIDATION AS TO WHAT EXACTLY WAS SAID, I SUGGEST THAT YOU CALL AMBASSADOR YOUNG OR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PRESS GUY IN NEW YORK.

Q. ON THE QUESTION OF STABILIZATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WHAT MAKES YOU CONFIDENT THAT YOUR MESSAGES GET THROUGH, AS YOU SAY?

A. I DON'T THINK I AM REALLY PREPARED TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT WE ARE SAYING AND WHAT IS COMING BACK TO UNCLASSIFIED

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US, BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR MESSAGE IS GETTING THROUGH.

Q. CAN I FOLLOW UP THAT PALESTINIANIAN QUESTION A MINUTE? THIS HAS BEEN ASKED BEFORE, BUT I WANT TO ASK IT AGAIN TODAY.

IS IT THE AMERICAN POSITION THAT SHOULD THE PLO ACCEPT THE UN RESOLUTION 242 WITH THE QUALIFYING STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MADE CLEAR IN PLAINS, THAT THEN THE PLO WOULD BE ENTITLED TO BE REPRESENTED EITHER AS PART OF THE PAN-ARAB DELEGATION IN GENEVA OR ON ITS OWN?

A. NO, THAT IS NOT THE POSITION OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THE POSITION OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS THAT IF THE PLO ACCEPTS RESOLUTION 242, THEN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN DIRECT TALKS WITH THE PLO, WHICH WE

WE HAVE HITHERTO REFUSED TO DO. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER SAID THAT IF THE PLO ACCEPTS RESOLUTION 242, THEN THAT ENTITLES THEM TO BE PARTICIPANTS IN A GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE HAVE NEVER SAID THAT. SOME PEOPLE

HAVE INTERPRETED WHAT WE HAVE SAID AS MEANING THAT, BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE. THAT IS A MISINTERPRETATION OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING.

Q. IS THE REVERSE THE CASE, THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ENTITLED TO BE REPRESENTED, EVEN IF THEY ACCEPT 242?

A. NO. WHAT IS THE CASE IS THAT EXACTLY HOW, AND WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS A MATTER FOR ALL OF THOSE CONCERNED, AND THAT MEANS THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH WERE AT THE LAST GENEVA CONFERENCE. THAT IS A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATION AMONG THEM.

Q. DID YOU SAY WHAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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LEBANON? DID YOU NAME THEM?

A. I ASSUME THAT THE GOVERNMENTS RIGHT IN THE AREA.

Q. WHICH GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA? CAN YOU SAY?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE PRECISE ANSWER TO THAT. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. YOU SAID THAT IF THE PLO RECOGNIZES 242 THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO DEAL WITH THE PLO. YOU DIDN'T SAY THAT IT SHOULD GO TO GENEVA; RIGHT?

A. WE HAVE NO STATEMENT WHICH SAYS THAT WE BELIEVE THE PLO SHOULD GO TO GENEVA.

Q. DO YOU RECOMMEND TO THE PARTIES IN GENEVA WHICH WILL ATTEND AT GENEVA IF THE PLO RECOGNIZES 242 THAT THE PLO WILL ATTEND IN GENEVA?

A. THAT IS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. THE PLO HAS NOT ACCEPTED 242, SO THAT QUESTION DOES NOT ARISE AT THIS TIME.

Q. IN RELATION TO OUR REQUEST TO NATIONS OR GOVERNMENTS, RE THE SOUTHERN LEBANON THING, HAVE WE TALKED DIRECTLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT IT OR SATELLITES IN EASTERN EUROPE ABOUT SHIPPING WEAPONS TO THE PLO?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. HAVE WE TALKED WITH THE RUSSIANS OR THE EASTERN EUROPEANS WITH REGARD TO THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT?

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A. WHAT I HAVE HERE -- I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. WHAT I HAVE HERE IS THAT WE HAVE URGED ALL PARTIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.

Q. YES. BUT I MEAN AMONG THE PARTIES IS THE SOVIET UNION INCLUDED OR EASTERN EUROPEANS WHICH ARE SHIPPING ARMS TO THE PLO. THIS IS MY QUESTION.

A. I JUST DON'T KNOW, JOE.

Q. (JOSEPH POLAKOFF, JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY). NOW LET ME GO BACK ONCE MORE TO THE QUESTION OF THE PLO.

THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 16TH AT AN INTERVIEW AT THE WHITE HOUSE SAID -- BUT I WOULD JUST LIKE TO READ THIS TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS STILL THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. THIS, OF COURSE, IF AFTER HIS AUGUST 8TH PLAINS STATEMENT, ETCETERA. THIS IS A WHITE HOUSE TRANSCRIPT. QUOTE. WE HAVE SAID IF THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT PUBLICLY THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AND EXIST IN PEACE AS DESCRIBED UNDER UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 242, THAT WE WOULD MEET WITH THEM AND DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE NEVER CALLED ON THE PLO TO BE PART OF THE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. END QUOTE. THEN IT GOES ON FROM THERE. THAT IS AN EXCERPT. I WILL BE GLAD TO MAKE THIS COPY AVAILABLE TO ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO LOOK AT IT, INCLUDING THE STATE DEPARTMENT. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS?

A. I DO.

Q. LARS NELSON, NEWSWEEK) IT IS A PERVERSION OF THIS BRIEFING TO BE READING WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS LIKE THIS ON THE RECORD, AND I THINK IT IS OUT OF ORDER.

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Q. (POLAKOFF) IT IS A WHAT?

Q. (NELSON) IT IS A PERVERSION OF THIS BRIEFING TO READ IN WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS ON THE RECORD. -

Q. WHY IS IT? WAIT A MINUTE. WHY IS IT A PERVERSION OF THIS TO READ THIS STATEMENT? HOW MANY STATEMENTS ARE

BEING READ HERE BY OTHERS?

Q. THANK YOU.

Q. I WOULD JUST LIKE THE RECORD TO SHOW THAT, AND I HOPE IT IS STILL BEING TRANSCRIBED, THAT I WOULD LIKE AN APOLOGY FOR THE INORDONANCY FROM THE MAN WHO MADE THE STATEMENT AND I WOULD LIKE HIM TO EXPLAIN IT.

2. ANSWERS PROVIDED FOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ARE BELOW:

SEPTEMBER 20. Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT STILL SATISFIED THAT ISRAEL'S POSSIBLE USE OF U.S. SUPPLIED WEAPONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY TRANSFER AGREEMENTS?

A. WE KNOW OF NOTHING NEW THAT WOULD LEAD US TO ALTER OUR EARLIER CONCLUSION ON THIS MATTER.

SEPTEMBER 20. Q. HAS THE U.S. TRANSMITTED A WARNING TO SYRIA FROM ISRAEL ABOUT ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SYRIAN MOBILIZATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. WE ARE MAKING INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND ARE IN CONTACT WITH ALL OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. I CANNOT GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THESE CONTACTS, BUT I CAN SAY THAT WE ARE URGING UNCLASSIFIED

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RESTRAINT ON ALL, SO AS TO PREVENT ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA.

SEPTEMBER 21. Q. DO WE KNOW WHETHER ISRAELI TROOPS HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER INTO LEBANON? (IN VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENTS PAST REMARKS ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, WE THINK THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS PRETTY MUCH BOUND TO TELL US WHETHER THAT INTEGRITY HAS BEEN VIOLATED BY A FRIENDLY COUNTRY).

A. THE UNITED STATES POSITION REMAINS AS WE HAVE OFTEN STATED: WE SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON. OUR EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED TOWARDS ENDING THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND TO EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT SARKIS' GOVERNMENT TO THAT AREA. AS WE SAID TODAY, THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED, AND WE CANNOT GO BEYOND REPEATING THAT WE ARE URGING RESTRAINT ON ALL CONCERNED, SO AS TO END THE FIGHTING THERE.

SEPTEMBER 22. Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS A NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION INCORPORATING RESOLUTION

242, BUT ALSO DESIGNATING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS MORE THAN A REFUGEE PROBLEM?

A. IN OUR VIEW, RESOLUTION 242, ALONG WITH 338, PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SUBSEQUENT PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT. IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL OF THE DIRECTLY CONCERNED STATES IN THE AREA.

ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE RESOLUTION 242 COULD BEGIN TO UNRAVEL THE ONLY AGREED UPON FRAMEWORK WHICH EXISTS AND WOULD NOT SERVE THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

--WE, THEREFORE, WOULD OPPOSE ANY SUCH RESOLUTION.

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--IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, WE RECALL THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN PLAINS ON AUGUST 8, WHEN HE SAID: QUOTE. IF THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD SAY, "WE RECOGNIZE UN RESOLUTION 242 IN ITS ENTIRETY, BUT WE THINK THE PALESTINIANS HAVE ADDITIONAL STATUS OTHER THAN JUST REFUGEES," THAT WOULD SUIT US OKAY. END QUOTE.

SEPTEMBER 22. Q. WAS THE IDEA OF A US NAVAL BASE AT HAIFA EVER UNDER CONSIDERATION?

A. AT THE POLICY LEVEL, WE KNOW OF NO CONSIDERATION GIVEN THIS IDEA.

SEPTEMBER 22. Q. WHEN WAS THE MOST RECENT OFFICIAL US CONTACT WITH ANY OR ALL OF THE WEST BANK MAYORS? ARE THERE PLANS TO HAVE CONTACT WITH ANY OF THEM?

A. THE CONSUL GENERAL IN JERUSALEM, AS PART OF HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES, ROUTINELY CALLS ON AND RECEIVES INDIVIDUALLY MAYORS OF WEST BANK CITIES MANY TIMES IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR. THE WEST BANK IS HIS CONSULAR DISTRICT. IT IS NORMAL FOR ANY CONSUL TO VISIT AND RECEIVE VISITS FROM OFFICIALS IN HIS CONSULAR DISTRICT, INCLUDING MAYORS.

SEPTEMBER 22. Q. IF THE ISRAELIS ARE IN FORCE ACROSS THE BORDER IN LEBANON, AS ALL THE NEWS ACCOUNTS SHOW, WOULD THIS BE A MATTER THAT WOULD CONCERN THE US?

A. WE HAVE REGISTERED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE INCREASED FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. I AM NOT GOING BEYOND THAT GENERAL STATEMENT AT THIS POINT. WE ARE MAKING INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION AND ARE URGING ALL INVOLVED TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT.

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Q. DOES AN INCURSION ACROSS THE LEBANESE BORDER CONSTITUTE A LACK OF RESTRAINT IN THE US VIEW?

A. AS WE HAVE SAID THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED, AND WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO A DISCUSSION OF IT.

SEPTEMBER 22. Q. DID THE QUESTION OF SUPER POWER GUARANTEES PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS?

A. --THE SUBJECT DID COME UP IN THE DISCUSSIONS, BUT WAS NOT A CENTRAL FOCUS OF ATTENTION.

--THE US VIEW HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT ANY SUCH GUARANTEES MUST BE SUPPLEMENTAL TO AN AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY THE PARTIES AND, IN NO WAY, A SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS AGREEMENT.

--WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO THE SPECIFIC CONTENT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS DAYAN AND FAHMY ON THIS MATTER.

SEPTEMBER 23. Q. DOES THE US KNOW WHETHER ISRAELI FORCES ARE IN SOUTH LEBANON?

A. AS WE HAVE SAID, THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IS VERY COMPLICATED, AND WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO WHAT THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS OR DOESN'T KNOW.

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